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DOUBT IS VOICED
ON BUSH APPROVALRefusal to Bar 1976 Bid for
Vice-Presidency Cited

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—The nomination of George Bush to be Director of Central Intelligence appeared to be in serious trouble in the Senate late today.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, which is considering Mr. Bush's nomination, scheduled a meeting for 9:30 A.M. tomorrow and several Senate sources predicted that as many as half the committee's members might vote against the 51-year-old former Texas Representative.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bush met late today with President Ford. During two days of hearings before the committee, Mr. Bush was asked to give up any chance to be nominated for the Vice Presidency as a prerequisite to Senate confirmation. He has steadfastly refused to do so. White House sources would not comment on the meeting, but one of them noted:

"This is a crucial time for the C.I.A. and President Ford wants the man of his choice to head the agency." The implication was that Mr. Bush may relinquish his chances of becoming the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee.

Administration Confidence

The President could also, as Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, a committee member, said yesterday, choose to rule Mr. Bush out of the race.

Administration sources said they believed that seven of the committee's 16 members planned to vote against Mr. Bush. Senate sources said that as many as eight might reject the

nomination. In either event, the close split in the Committee.

Administration sources said that in the "long run" they believed they had the votes to carry Mr. Bush through the Senate.

Among the Senators who announced against today were

Howard W. Cannon, Democrat of Nevada, Thomas J. McIntyre, Democrat of New Hampshire, and Gary Hart, Democrat of Colorado. According to one Senate source, Senators Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, and Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, would also oppose Mr. Bush. Three other Democratic Senators—Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, John C. Culver of Iowa and Mr. Jackson — announced their opposition early.

But they said that they believed the Democrats were trying to delay the appointment, which served to erode Mr. Bush's support and pushed the issue closer to the period of conventions and elections when his partisan background would stand out more.

At the earliest, the Senate would not vote on the nomination until January.

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